explore for hydrocarbons in the Konkan-Kerala off shore area; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One well in Cochin-High is planned for drilling during 1987-88.

Setting up New Refinery in Assam

665. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for setting up of a new refinery in Assam;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made up its mind, to set up the said refinery in the private sector only; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is not enough oil for another refinery in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) (a) to (d) In a statement made by the Home Minister in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha on 16-8-85 regarding the Assam Accord, it was indicated that the Government of India had agreed interalia to establish an oil refinery in Assam. The Government will render all possible assistance in terms of institutional and bank finance to facilitate the establishment of an oil refinery to facilitate the establish

(2) A study has revealed that it is possible to set up a new refinery in Assam with an initial capacity of 1 MTPA.

Shares held by Phillip Petroleum Company in Cochin Refineries

666. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Phillip Petrolem Company of USA has proposed to withdraw its shares from Cochin Refineries;

(b) if so, the details of the shares held by that company in the Refinery and the reasons for their withdrawal;

(c) whether Government propose to purchase their shares; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) M/s. Phillips Petroleum Company of USA holds 1,85,007 equity shares of Rs. 100I-each in Cochin Refineries Ltd. 26.43 per cent of the total paid up capital of the company. They have offered to sell these shares to the Government of India due to some of their internal corporate reasons. The offer is under the consideration of Government.

Fake LPG Connections

667. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang selling fake LPG connections in Delhi has recently been busted; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) During February, 1987, the Delhi police has registered, on the complaint of an LPG distributor, cases of forgery and cheating against certain persons